



JOBS FOR MONTANA'S GRADUATES

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JMG News

EDUCATION FOR LIFE!

NOVEMBER 2010

Governor Honors JMG at Press Conference

Governor Schweitzer Announces JMG Program Ranked Number One in Nation

In a press conference held on September 8, 2010 at Helena PAL, Governor Brian Schweitzer announced that the Department of Labor and Industry's Jobs for Montana's Graduates Program (JMG) is ranked number one in the nation by the Jobs for America's Graduates Program (JAG). The national program recognized JMG with the "Number One Outstanding State Organization Award" and the prestigious "5 for 5 Award" for the fifth year in a row along with several other awards.

"The success rate of the JMG program is phenomenal," said Governor Schweitzer. "I would like to thank all the dedicated teachers and students that have made this program so successful."

In school year 2008-2009 the graduation rate for seniors who participated in JMG was 95% and 87% in schools on or serving reservations. "This success is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of both the students and the specialists. It is because of them that this program is what it is today," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly, who was also in attendance.

During the 2008-2009 school year, JMG supported a network of 50 programs offering 1,157 students the potential for career development by focusing on staying in school and finding a career path suited to their interests and abilities.

JAG, serving 30 states, has established five performance outcomes for students enrolled in the program. The standards include graduation rate, positive outcomes of transitioning to work, post secondary education, or military, and full-time job placements.

Thank you to the staff at Helena PAL who hosted the press conference and to all of the schools administrations and specialists who work with a JMG program; you have made JMG such a success in Montana!



Above: Helena PAL students and guests listen as Governor Schweitzer announces that Jobs for Montana's Graduates is the number one program in the nation.



Featured left: Labor and Industry Commissioner Kelly presents the JAG "5 for 5 Award" to Governor Schweitzer at a press conference held at Helena PAL on September 8, 2010.

Attorney General Steve Bullock Represents Montana on National JAG Board

Steve Bullock, Attorney General for the State of Montana, has accepted an invitation to be on the National Board of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG). Attorney General Bullock believes that his participation on the JAG Board is in line with his commitment to the youth of Montana, putting him not only in a position to positively affect the lives of Montana youth, but to influence the lives of young people across the nation.

Bullock is the first State Attorney General to join the JAG Board. He will join Governor Bebee (AR), Governor Baldacci (ME), Governor Mitchell Daniels (IN), Governor John Hoeven (ND), Governor John Lynch (NH), and Governor Bill Richardson (NM), along with corporate leaders and educators from around the nation.

As his first order of business, Attorney General Bullock attended the JMG Fall Leadership Conference where he spoke and was a Leadership Luncheon Table Host discussing his career journey with the JMG students. He will represent Montana at the National JAG Leadership Conference in Washington DC in mid-November.

Thank you, Attorney General Bullock, for your commitment to both programs - Jobs for Montana's Graduates and Jobs for America's Graduates. We are glad to have you in the JMG family!

JMG FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE A SUCCESS!

Thank you to those who attended the JMG Fall Leadership Conference in Helena on November 2nd, 2010. It was a rousing day beginning with national leadership development speaker Ted Wiese and followed by the leadership luncheon, where students had the opportunity to converse with the 35 Montana community leaders in attendance. The day concluded with awarding the winners of the JMG fall competitive events.

JMG Logo: 1st Place: Roberts High School; 2nd Place: Helena PAL; 3rd Place: Troy High School

JAG National Leadership Conference (winners of all-expense paid trip to Washington DC): Jessie Lynn Drake, Helena PAL; John Miller, Judith Gap High School; Carissa Oberman, Butte High School; Abby Steele, Culbertson High School; and Katrina Wilhelm, Sidney High School.

Look for a more detailed article and pictures about the conference, student winners, and trip to Washington DC in the upcoming JMG student newsletter coming out in December!

DATA REMINDER

DATABASE DUE DATE: NOVEMBER 19th

- **eNDMS database entry:**
 - o **Senior follow ups** – include job and school placement
 - o **8th grader follow-ups** – transition to high school
 - o **Model services**

PROGRAM REMINDERS

FOR NOVEMBER:

- **Middle School**: Students work on civic project
- **High School**: Fall Leadership Conference, Working on Program of Work

FOR DECEMBER:

- **Middle School**: Complete civic project
- **High School**: Continue Program of Work
- **December Newsletter**: Deadline for submitting photos and articles is **December 1**

JMG Practices: Why Follow-Ups?

What is a student “Follow Up?” Why are they required for JMG? Which students need them and what are some good ways to go about getting them done? Read on for the answers!

In order to ensure that former students continue down the road to success, Jobs for Montana's Graduates uniquely provides **Follow up Services** for 8th and 12th graders that track the student's progress through the 12 month period after they exit the program. There are two follow ups required for 8th grade students (one in September and one in November) and four required for 12th grade students (in September, November, February, and May). Included in the follow up process are each participant's retention rates, current activities, and a narrative on their progress. For high school seniors, graduation dates and job/school placement is also tracked.

The information recorded throughout the follow up period is entered into the JMG data management system (e-NDMS), which is maintained by each school's career specialist. The statistics gathered are used to determine whether Montana has met the performance standards that are set by our national affiliate, Jobs for America's Graduates. The performance standards determine the effectiveness of the JMG program.

As a JMG career specialist, it is important to document the accomplishments and career developments of former students. During the follow up process, specialists can see that the students are achieving their school and career goals and are also aware of any conflicts that may occur. If a student is not attending school or employed, the career specialist can use the opportunity to assist that student in getting back in school or finding employment, vocational training or other educational opportunities.

Need some hints on how best to perform follow ups on your students? Here are some follow up recommendations and suggestions for Career Specialists:

- **Person to person contact** with former participants is highly suggested.
- Have each student fill out the **follow up form** provided by JMG before graduation to gather all contact information.
- Utilize **Facebook** and **phone texting** if you can't get a hold a a student by phone or email - students use these tools and will respond!
- Contact in the school hallway, the grocery store, or at the homecoming game can count!
- If you can't get a hold of the student, a **sibling, friend, parent, or neighbor** can be a good source of information.
- To follow up on seniors, you may contact **employers, military recruiters & college advisors**.
- Make the follow up experience positive by showing that you care about their accomplishments and successes.

Because of the follow-up process, students recognize that their specialists truly care about their progress and, more often than not, are eager to share information.

The JMG yearly outcomes, which are based on the follow-up data, are used to determine the achievements and awards for the specialists and schools. It was from the follow up data that Montana was named the **NUMBER ONE** state in the nation for performance outcomes in 2008-2009!

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